

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-14. (canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) Housing structure which has a frame structure on which there are arranged via connecting elements several optical elements which are held in mounts or structural modules, wherein;

the optical elements are detachably connected to the frame structure with their mounts or structural modules and connecting elements;

~~in such a way that in the installed state they are integrated as bearing units in the frame structure, wherein~~ when the optical elements with their mounts or structural modules and connecting elements are installed in the frame structure, the housing structure is an integral load-bearing unit;

when the optical elements with their mounts or structural modules and connecting elements are not installed in the frame structure, the frame structure is not self-supporting; and

the frame structure and the mounts or structural modules with their connecting elements have at least approximately the same coefficient of thermal expansion.

16. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to claim [[1]] 15, wherein the optical elements are supported on mounts in the form of base elements.

17. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to claim [[1]] 15, wherein the mounts or structural modules are provided with setting members.

18. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to claim [[3]] 17, wherein actuators are provided as setting members between the optical elements and their mounts or structural modules.

19. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to claim [[3]] 17, wherein the optical elements can be adjusted in six degrees of freedom by the setting members.

20. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to claim [[2]] 16, wherein adapting elements are arranged between the base elements and the frame structure.

21. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to claim [[1]] 15, wherein the mounts or structural modules are connected rigidly to the frame structure in six degrees of freedom via their connecting elements.

22. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to claim [[7]] 21, wherein at least some of the force directions of the six degrees of freedom are located in a plate plane or strut plane of the frame structure.

23. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to claim [[1]] 15, wherein gravity compensators are arranged between the optical elements and the mounts or the structural modules.

24. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to claim [[1]] 15, wherein the frame structure, the mounts or structural modules and the connecting elements consist of materials with a low coefficient of thermal expansion such as Zerodur or Kyocera for example.

25. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to claim [[1]] 15, configured as an objective housing for a projection objective in microlithography.

26. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to claim [[11]] 25, wherein the objective housing is provided for EUV lithography.

27. (Currently Amended) Housing structure according to claim [[12]] 26, wherein mirrors are provided in the objective housing as optical elements.

28. (Currently Amended) Housing structure which has a frame structure on which there are arranged via connecting elements several optical elements which are held in mounts or structural modules, wherein:

the optical elements are detachably connected to the frame structure with their mounts or structural modules and connecting elements;

when the optical elements with their mounts or structural modules and connecting elements are in such a way that in the installed in the frame structure, the optical elements with their mounts or structural modules and connecting elements state they are integrated as stiffness [[contributing]] contributing units in the frame structure; and

when the optical elements with their mounts or structural modules and connecting elements are not installed in the frame structure, the frame structure is not self-supporting.